

Amendment to and Listing of the Claims:

1. (Original) A drug delivery composition for delivering a drug to the colonic region comprising a starch capsule containing the drug and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating such that the drug is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.
2. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which dissolves at a pH of 5 or above.
3. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which is redox-sensitive.
4. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating comprises an azopolymer or a disulphide polymer.
5. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which is degraded by enzymes or bacteria present in the colon.
6. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises methylmethacrylate or a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate.
7. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises a cellulose ester.
8. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating has a thickness in the range of 80 µm to 300 µm.
9. (Original) A drug delivery according to claim 1 wherein the drug is one which acts locally in the colon.
10. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the drug is for systemic delivery and systemic action.
11. (Original) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the drug is a vaccine for delivery to the lymphoid tissue of the colon.

12. (Original) A method of delivering a drug to the colonic region of a human or mammal comprising orally administering a drug delivery composition comprising a starch capsule containing the drug and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating such that the drug is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.

13. (Original) A method of delivering a vaccine to the lymphoid tissue present in the colon of a human or mammal comprising orally administering a drug delivery composition comprising a starch capsule containing the vaccine and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating such that the vaccine is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.

14. (Withdrawn) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of a steroid, a laxative, an anticholinergic, an opoid, a calcium channel blocker, a thromboxane A₂ synthetase inhibitor, and a 5 HT3-antagonist.

15. (Withdrawn) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of a deoxyribonucleic acid molecule and an antibody against infectious bacteria.

16. (Withdrawn) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of hydrocortisone, octreotide, cisapride, glucosamine, ridogrel, ondansetron, and 5-ASA.

17. (Withdrawn) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is budesonide.

18. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 9, wherein the drug is for the treatment of a disease selected from irritable bowel syndrome, irritable bowel disease, Crohn's disease, constipation, post-operative atony, and a gastrointestinal infection.

19. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from hydrocortisone, budesonide, ridogrel, ondansetron and an antibody against Clostridium difficile.

20. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 for the delivery of an antiviral agent.

21. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 20, wherein the antiviral agent is useful in the prophylaxis of HIV.

22. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 10, wherein the drug is a heparin, insulin, a calcitonin, human growth hormone (hGH), growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH), an interferon, somatostatin or an analogue thereof, erythropoietin (EPO), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), parathyroid hormone (PTH), luteinising hormone releasing hormone (LHRH) or an analogue thereof, atrial natriuretic factor (ANF), vasopressin, desmopressin, calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP) or an analgesic.

23. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 23, wherein the drug is octreotide, vapreotide or morphine.

24. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from captopril, alfuzosine, a bisphosphonate, carbamazepine, atenolol, raloxifene or benazepril.

25. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 24, wherein the drug is clodronate.